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PRESS RELEASE

In conjunction with The Allstate Foundation, the Virginia Crime Prevention Association (VCPA) is conducting five regional Neighborhood Watch Conferences to support Homeland Security in Virginia. President Bush has called on communities throughout America to double participation in Neighborhood Watch to support Homeland Security. In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, the need for securing our communities with volunteer programs such as Neighborhood Watch has become essential. People want to get involved and learn how to report and respond to terrorist threats. Neighborhood Watch is a natural tool to get people involved in the war against terrorism.

The final regional Neighborhood Watch conference is scheduled for Saturday, December 13 at the Virginia Beach Law Enforcement Training Center from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. The conference is free and is open to the public. Over 350 people have attended conferences held in Salem, Henrico County, Bristol and Fairfax County.

To support the President's call, the VCPA is partnering with Virginia law enforcement agencies to mobilize Neighborhood Watch with a new mission to support Homeland Security. This new mission will provide Virginians the tools they need to be more vigilant for suspicious activity that may be related to terrorist threats and to make their homes and communities more secure.

The regional Neighborhood Watch conferences provide support for existing Neighborhood Watch programs, while recruiting new volunteers to meet the President's goal of doubling Neighborhood Watch participation. Topics that the conferences will address include: Neighborhood Watch and Homeland Security; Status Report: Neighborhood Watch in Virginia; Virginia Citizen Corps; Recognizing and Understanding the Threat of Terrorism; Hazardous Article Threats; Preparing for the Unexpected - Home Emergency Planning and Terrorism Risk Assessments.

The VCPA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that has been operating in Virginia since 1978. Its mission is to develop and implement programs that prevent crime by focusing on reducing opportunities for crime. The VCPA partners with law enforcement, community groups, businesses, schools, public housing and other organizations to deliver programs and services. The VCPA is a charter member of the Crime Prevention Coalition of America. The VCPA has over 425 members, representing the majority of the law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Neighborhood Watch Conferences are being made available through a grant presented to the VCPA by The Allstate Foundation. Founded in 1952, The Allstate Foundation is an independent corporation funded by contributions from the Allstate Insurance Company. The Allstate Corporation (NYSE: ALL) is the nation's largest publicly held personal lines insurer. Widely known through its "You're In Good Hands With Allstate®" slogan, Allstate provides insurance products to more than 14 million households and has approximately 13,000 exclusive agents in the U.S. and Canada. Customers can access Allstate products and services through Allstate agents, or in select states at allstate.com and 1-800-Allstate. Encompass and Deerbrook Insurance brand property and casualty products are sold exclusively through independent agents. Allstate Financial Group includes the businesses that provide life insurance and investment products.

October 17, 2003

For more information contact: Patrick D. Harris, Executive Director, (804) 231-3800 or vaprevent@aol.com

Neighborhood Watch and Homeland Security

December 13, 2003

Virginia Beach Law Enforcement Training Center

8:30 am - 8:45 am	Welcome and Introduction Patrick Harris - Virginia Crime Prevention Association Local Law Enforcement Representatives
8:45 am - 9:15 am	Neighborhood Watch and Homeland Security Patrick Harris - Virginia Crime Prevention Association
9:15 am - 9:45 am	Status Report: Neighborhood Watch in Virginia Daniel Gilmore - Department of Criminal Justice Services
9:45 am - 10:15 am	Virginia Citizen Corps Susanne Simmons - Citizen Corps, Office of the Governor
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Recognizing and Understanding the Threat of Terrorism Virginia State Police
11:00 am - 11:45 am	Terrorism Risk Assessments Richard L. Arrington - Roanoke Police Department
11:45 am - 1:00 pm	Lunch (provided)
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Hazardous Article Threats Karl Mercer - Henrico County Division of Police
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Preparing for the Unexpected - Home Emergency Planning American Red Cross
2:00 pm - 2:15 pm	Break
2:15 pm - 3:00 pm	Expanding Neighborhood Watch to Support Homeland Security Local Panel Discussion

Supported by a major grant from the Allstate Foundation.

Speakers

Neighborhood Watch and Homeland Security

Virginia Crime Prevention Association

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Status Report: Neighborhood Watch in Virginia

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Virginia Citizen Corps

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Preparing for the Unexpected - Home Emergency Planning

American Red Cross

Recognizing and Understanding the Threat of Terrorism

Bureau of Criminal Investigation - Department of State Police

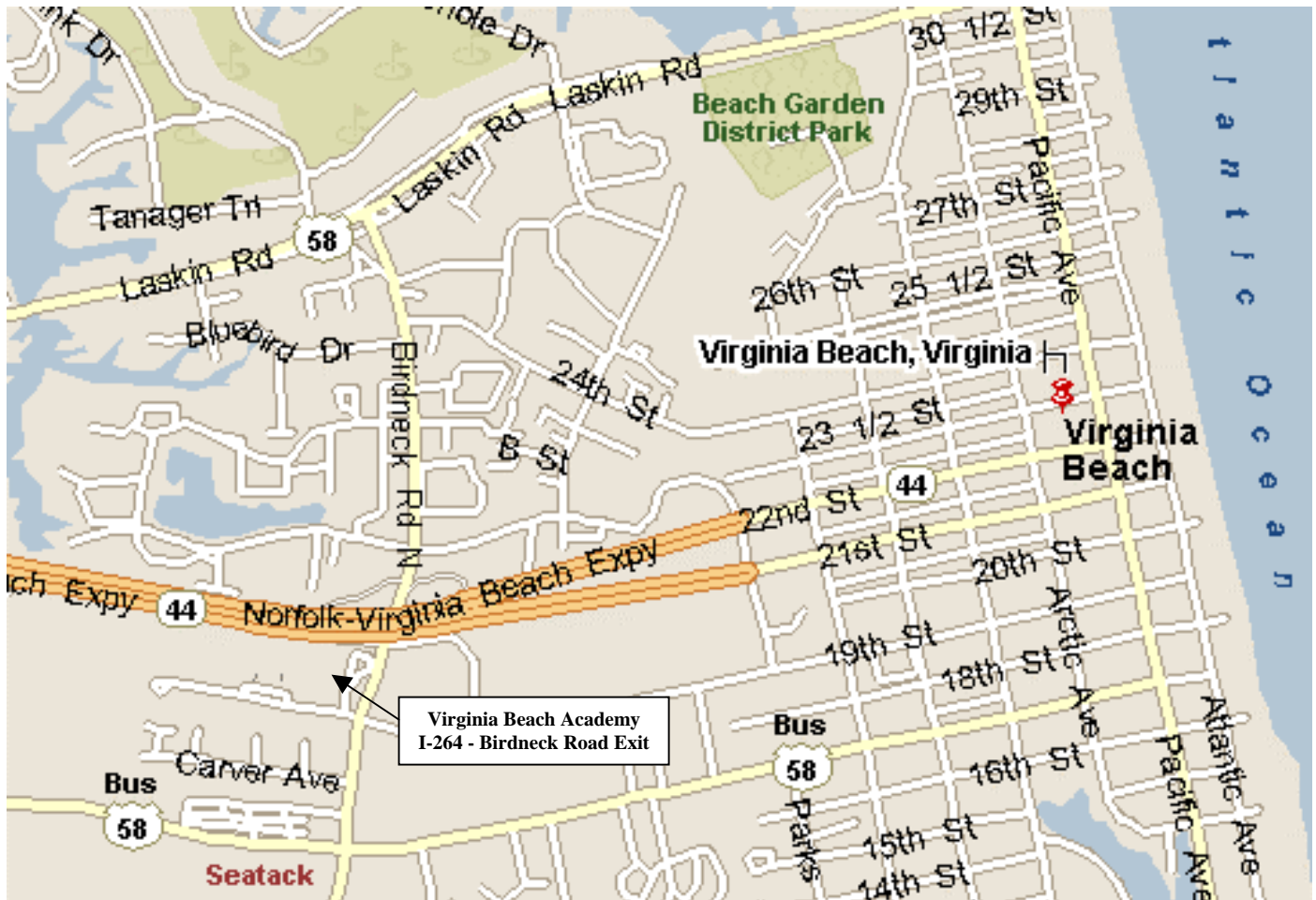
Hazardous Article Threats

Karl Mercer
Henrico County Division of Police
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Terrorist Risk Assessments

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